

BURLINGTON FIRE COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting

April 3, 2012

The Meeting of the Burlington Fire Commission convened at 0800 hours in Chief Lasker's office with Commissioners Mark Saba, John Vincent, Jacob Perkinson, Kevin McLaughlin, and Linda Sheehey. Also present were Chief S. Lasker, DC B. Bourgeois and Clerk of the Board Jillian Bogert.

Meeting End Time

Meeting end time was set for 0900 hours by motion of Commissioner Sheehey, seconded by Commissioner Perkinson with all in favor.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

A motion to accept the last meeting's minutes was made by Commissioner Perkinson and seconded by Commissioner Sheehey with all in favor.

Chief's Oral Report

On March 20th the Chief and Deputy Chief Bruce Bourgeois met with the Public Safety Committee to discuss the Station relocation project. The information was well received and a decision was made to continue the study and gather more information. Discussion ensued.

The proposed idea of charging for Time of Sale inspections was approved by the City on March 27th. The department will now start charging for TOS inspections within the next few months after announcing a fee is forthcoming. The fee scale currently reflects the states scale.

Ten of our members were selected to cover President Obama's visit to Vermont March 30th. He spoke at the Sheraton in South Burlington as well as at UVM. A big thank you to the Fire Marshal for accommodating the occupancy loads up at UVM.

Engine 2 is back in New York for bodywork. Earlier last year the apparatus was sent out for paint work but it was not up to par. When E-2 returns, E-5 will go to New York for work as well.

Jason Ziter, a 5 year member, will be resigning this week. Thomas Middleton will be retiring with 20 years at the end of May. Come May there will be 4 vacant spots in the department. The previous administration had given us permission to hire however we still need to give new members a two week notice and a physical before they can work for us. More information to come at a later time.

The finance board had approved us to hold a John Norman class on March 31st at BHS. The seminar was well received and we had a good group of participants. By holding this class, we saved money on traveling, lodging, meals, etc. and will have made some money after all is said in done. We hope to hold more classes like this in the future.

The department was mentioned in recent papers regarding cuts. As always, there is talk about making cuts around this time of year. However, the department has not yet had a meeting about budget and there is no cause to worry. Adding the TOS inspections will help the department gain some revenue into the General fund. Discussion ensued.

Three recent fires that were able to be saved have not been in the papers due to our timely response. South Union had a porch fire, Allen Street had a fire in the wall that spread to the attic and Elmwood Ave. also had a small fire.

Old/New Business

Old Business – Commissioner Perkinson looked into the Merit Award protocol. The last time we gave an award like this was in 2007. Because a construction worker called in the fire the Commission agreed they would award the man with a Citizen Citation. Commissioner Perkinson will continue to work on crafting the award.

Old Business – We have talked about having a luncheon to present yearly awards to members. We could raise money from local businesses and would include a formal promotional ceremony (25 year awards, commissions, promotions, Merit award, etc.) Having one a year would be good for the department. Commissioner Perkinson will go forth in finding sponsors and we will shoot for the event being held in June.

Adjournment: The Commission adjourned at 0830 by motion of Commissioner Vincent and seconded by Commissioner McLaughlin.